Telephone facility in Chhochhi village in Haryana

*326. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no telephone facility is available in Chhochhi village of Beri Block in District Jhajjar, Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to provide telephone facility in that village till January, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An exchange at Madana Kalan has been commissioned on 8.12.2002 and 13 telephone connections have been provided in Chhochhi village so far from this exchange.

Annual growth rate

*328. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assessment of the annual growth rate in the agricultural, industrial and service sectors in the country has been made by Government in order to achieve the target of 8 per cent annual growth rate during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the annual growth rate necessary for these sectors; and

(c) the average annual growth rate in these sectors during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be approved by the National Development Council.

(c) The average annual growth rate (per cent per annum) achieved in the agricultural, industrial and service sectors in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan period was estimated to be 2.1, 4.5 and 7.8 respectively.

Reorganisation of Taliban in the borders of Pakistan

*329. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Taliban forces are reorganising in the border areas of Pakistan in preparation for a new wave of terrorist attacks on Afghanistan as per recent news reports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the matter has been brought to the notice of US Government; and

(c) if so, whether there has been any perceptible change in US attitude towards Pakistan and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There have been reports, including in the media, of former Taliban elements regrouping and reorganizing including in the areas of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan and receiving support and assistance for such activities. There have also been a series of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan this year including on Defence Minister Marshal Fahim, President Hamid Karzai and a bomb blast in Kabul city in September.

(b) Government have regularly, as a part of the global effort against international terrorism, brought to the attention of other Governments, including the US, information related to terrorist activities and the sponsorship and financing of such activities.

(c) Public official comments from the US have referred to support being received from Pakistan for the efforts of the international coalition against terrorism. However, reports in the international media have increasingly drawn attention to Pakistan's duplicity and its involvement with and support for Taliban and other elements involved in terrorist activities and in undermining the global effort.